

REMARKS

Claims 79-83 and 85-116 are pending in this application. Claims 79, 80, 83, 85-87, 89, 92-95, 97-99, 101-107 and 111-116 are allowed. Claims 122-129 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-78, 84, and 117-121 were previously cancelled. Claims 122-131 have been cancelled herein.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional, continuation, or continuation-in-part applications directed to any withdrawn or canceled subject matter.

Claims 88 and 96 have been amended herein. Claim 88 has been amended to include the specific canonical structural variants for SEQ ID NOs. 1, 3, 7 and 11 which were presented in previously pending claims 122-125, respectively. Claim 96 has been amended to include the specific canonical structural variants for SEQ ID NOs. 2, 4, 8 and 12 which were presented in previously pending claims 126-129, respectively. Support for the amendments to claims 88 and 96 can be found in the original claims and, for example, on page 12, last paragraph of the specification.

No new matter has been added by the amendments.

I. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph Should be Withdrawn

The rejection of claims 88, 96, 130 and 131 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement was maintained. The Office states that “the instant claims do not identify which amino acid positions within the CDRs are essential for binding.” Office Action, page 4, last paragraph. Furthermore, the Office indicates that “Applicant’s Exhibit A demonstrates specific mutations at specific positions within the CDR regions, while the claims are drawn to a broader scope of mutation at any position within the CDR region.” *Id.* The Office states that “amendment of the claims to include the limitations of claims [122]-129 in claims 88, 96, 130 and 131 may obviate this rejection.” *Id.* at page 5, first full paragraph.

Applicants have cancelled claims 130 and 131 herein. Accordingly, the rejection as it pertains to these claims has been rendered moot.

With respect to claims 88 and 96, as suggested by the Office, and merely for the sake of expediting prosecution, applicants have amended claims 88 and 96 to include the limitations of claims 122-125 and claims 126-129, respectively. More specifically, claim 88 was amended to include the equivalent canonical structural variants for SEQ ID NOS. 1, 3, 7 and 11 from previously pending claims 122-125 and have amended claim 96 to include the equivalent canonical structural variants for SEQ ID NOS. 2, 4, 8 and 12 from previously pending claims 126-129. Accordingly, Applicants assert that the rejections of claims 88 and 96 have been obviated and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

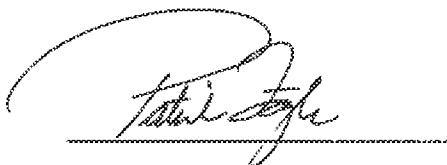
II. Conclusion

Applicants believe that claims 79-83 and 85-116 are allowable and respectfully request allowance thereof. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if that would be helpful to resolving any issues.

It is believed no fees are due; however, the commissioner is authorized to charge any fees and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-5071 which may be due.

Respectfully submitted,

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